

PHILLIP A. TALBERT
United States Attorney
STEPHANIE M. STOKMAN
Assistant United States Attorney
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Telephone: (559) 497-4000
Facsimile: (559) 497-4099
Attorneys for Plaintiff
United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

ALEXANDER ALVES, and
JORGE GONZALEZ,

DEFENDANTS.

CASE NO. 1:23-CR-00145-ADA-BAM

STIPULATION REGARDING DISCOVERY;
FINDINGS AND PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. As described more fully below, the parties, pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, for the reasons set forth below, request that the Court enter a Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials containing statements and other confidential information of victims, witnesses, co-defendants, and third parties, including confidential witness information.

2. The investigation was developed based, in part, on information provided by witnesses and confidential sources, whose identities will be apparent to the defendants/defense upon review of the reports, photographs, and/or recordings contained in the discovery material.

3. Additionally, the co-defendants in this matter who have not appeared in court may be listed within the discovery.

4. The purpose of the proposed Protective Order is to prevent the unauthorized dissemination, distribution, discussion of, or use of materials containing the statements and information

1 of these witnesses and co-defendants. The United States maintains that if this information is disclosed
2 without protective measures, or to defendant without limitation, it will risk the privacy and security of
3 the person to whom the information relates. The United States maintains that the information could
4 itself be used to further criminal activity if improperly disclosed or used. The United States has ongoing
5 obligations to protect the witnesses, including confidential witnesses, contained in these documents
6 and/or recordings.

7 5. Accordingly, the parties jointly request a Protective Order that will permit the
8 government to produce the materials, but preserves the privacy and security of the witnesses and other
9 individuals. The parties agree that the following conditions, once ordered by the Court in the proposed
10 Protective Order, will serve the government's interest in maintaining the privacy and security of the
11 witnesses, while permitting the Defense Team to understand the United States' evidence against the
12 defendant.

13 6. This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of
14 Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

15 **II. PROPOSED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

16 **A. Protected Materials**

17 7. This Order pertains to discovery provided or made available to defense counsel
18 containing the statements of witnesses, victim, and confidential witnesses in this case, including
19 potential co-defendants (hereafter, collectively "Protected Materials").

20 8. To the extent that notes are made that memorialize, in whole or in part, the identity of the
21 witnesses, or statements that indicate the identity of the witnesses, in any Protected Materials, or to the
22 extent that copies are made for authorized use by members of the Defense Team, such notes, copies, or
23 reproductions become Protected Materials, subject to the Protective Order and must be handled in
24 accordance with the terms of the Protective Order.

25 **B. Defense Team**

26 9. For purposes of this Order, the term "Defense Counsel" refers to the defendant's counsel
27 of record.

28 10. For purposes of this Order, the term "Defense Team" refers to (1) the defendant's counsel

of record, (2) other attorneys at defense counsel's law firm or defense organization who may be consulted regarding case strategy in the above-captioned matter, (3) defense investigators who are assisting defense counsel with this case, (4) retained experts or potential experts, and (5) paralegals, legal assistants, and other support staff to defendant's counsel of record providing assistance on this case. The term "Defense Team" does not include defendant, the defendant's family, or other associates of the defendant unless they are in categories 1 to 4 in this paragraph.

11. Defense Counsel must provide a copy of this Order to all members of the Defense Team.

C. Disclosure of Protected Materials

12. The Defense Team shall not permit anyone other than the Defense Team to have possession of the Protected Materials, including the defendants themselves.

13. The Defense Team shall not discuss the identities of any witness, informant, or potential co-defendant with defendant at this time.

14. No person or party shall use any Protected Materials or information derived from Protected Materials produced in this action for any purpose other than use in the above-captioned case. All Protected Materials shall be used solely for the purpose of conducting and preparing for pre-trial, trial, post-trial, and appellate proceedings (both direct and collateral) in this criminal action and for no other purposes whatsoever, and shall not be used for the economic or other benefit of the defendants, or any third party. Protected Materials may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order.

15. This Order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California from disclosing the Protected Materials to members of the United States Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, the Court, and defense.

16. Defense Counsel shall advise the United States with reasonable notice of any subpoenas, document requests, or claims for access to the Protected Materials by third parties if Defense Counsel is considering disseminating any of the Protected Materials to a third party, in order that the United States may take action to resist or comply with such demands as it may deem appropriate.

D. Ensuring Security of Protected Materials

17. The Defense Team shall maintain the Protected Materials safely and securely, and shall

1 exercise reasonable care in ensuring the security and confidentiality of the Protected Materials by storing
2 the Protected Materials in a secure place, such as a locked office, or otherwise secure facility where
3 visitors are not left unescorted.

4 18. A copy of the Protective Order must be stored with the discovery, in paper form and
5 electronically.

6 19. To the extent that Protected Materials, or any copies or reproductions thereof, are stored
7 electronically, the Protected Materials will be stored on a password-protected or encrypted storage
8 medium, including a password-protected computer, or device. Encryption keys must be stored securely
9 and not written on the storage media that they unlock.

10 20. If a member of the Defense Team makes, or causes to be made, any further copies of any
11 of the Protected Materials, Defense Counsel will ensure that the following notation is written, stamped
12 or inscribed on whatever folder, container, or media contains the copies: "PROTECTED MATERIALS-
13 SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER." For example, if Defense Counsel makes a copy of a disc or
14 physical file containing Protected Materials, the duplicate disc or file must be encrypted and marked
15 with the above notation. In the event that the Defense Team makes or causes to be made copies of the
16 Protected Materials for purposes of hearing or trial, it does not need to include this inscription.

17 **E. Filings**

18 21. In the event that a party needs to file Protected Materials with the Court, the filing should
19 be made under seal as provided for by the local rules. If the Court rejects the request to file such
20 information under seal, the party seeking to file such information shall provide advance written notice to
21 the other party to afford such party an opportunity to object or otherwise respond to such intention,
22 including by making a request that the filing party redact the identity of the confidential witness. If the
23 other party does not object to the proposed filing, the party seeking to file such information may file the
24 information without redaction.

25 **F. Conclusion of Prosecution**

26 22. The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this prosecution. All
27 Protected Materials subject to the Protective Order maintained in the Defense Team's files shall remain
28 subject to the Protective Order unless and until such Order is modified by the Court.

23. Upon final disposition of the case, including exhaustion of direct and collateral appellate proceedings, Defense Counsel shall return the Protected Materials to the government, or certify in writing that the Protected Materials have been destroyed.

24. If, upon final disposition of the case, defendant requests a copy of the Protected Materials from Defense Counsel, Defense Counsel may provide a copy of the Protected Materials to the defendant provided that Defense Counsel ensures that the identity of the confidential witness contained in the Protected Materials is fully redacted.

G. Termination or Substitution of Counsel

25. In the event that there is a substitution of counsel prior to final disposition of the case, new counsel of record must join this Protective Order before any Protected Materials may be transferred from the undersigned defense counsel to the new defense counsel. New defense counsel then will become Defense Counsel for purposes of this Protective Order, and become Defense Team's custodian of materials, and shall then become responsible, upon the conclusion of appellate and post-conviction proceedings, for complying with the provisions set forth above. All members of the Defense Team, whether current or past counsel, are at all times subject to the Protective Order and are not relieved by termination of representation or conclusion of the prosecution.

H. Modification of Order

26. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking modification to the Order or from objecting to discovery it otherwise believes to be improper. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking a more restrictive protective order with regard to particular discovery items.

27. Furthermore, upon the unsealing of the Indictment in its entirety, this Protective Order will terminate.

I. Violation of Order

28. Any person who willfully violates this Order may be held in contempt of court and maybe subject to monetary of other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Court. This provision does not expand or narrow the Court's contempt powers.

J. Application of Laws

29. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect or comment on the admissibility or

discoverability of the Protected Materials.

30. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to affect the application of and the parties' compliance with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Local Rules, and applicable statutes.

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

Dated: August 24, 2023

PHILLIP A. TALBERT
United States Attorney

/s/ STEPHANIE M. STOKMAN
STEPHANIE M. STOKMAN
Assistant United States Attorney

Dated: August 24, 2023

/s/ MIKE MCKNEELY
MIKE MCKNEELY
Counsel for Defendant
ALEXANDER ALVES

Dated: August 24, 2023

/s/ DOUGLAS FOSTER
DOUGLAS FOSTER
Counsel for Defendant
JORGE GONZALEZ

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 30, 2023

/s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE